

[28th April 1959]

calamities. Therefore, it is but right and proper that we should not only excuse them, but also offer them our sympathies and condolences.

Elections to Panchayats in Paramakudi taluk

* 98 Q.—SRI K. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the number of villages were panchayat elections have been held in 1958–59 so far in Paramakudy taluk, Ramanathapuram district?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: Elections have been held so far to 46 panchayats in Paramakudy taluk, Ramanathapuram district, in 1958–59.

SRI K. RAMACHANDRAN: 1959-ம் வருடத்திற்குள் எவ்வளவு கிராமங்களுக்கு எலெக்ஷன் நடக்கவேண்டும் என்று விண்ணப்பித்துக்கொண் டிருக்கிறார்கள்? அதிலே இன்னும் எவ்வளவு பாக்கி இருக்கிறது? இந்த எலெக்ஷனையெல்லாம் பார்த்து செய்வதற்கு ஏதாவது ஒரு தேதி நிர்ணயம் இருக்கிறதா?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: இன்னும் எலெக்ஷன் ஆகவேண்டியது 112 கிராமங்களுக்கு. அவைகளுக்கு எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரமாக எலெக்ஷன் நடத்த முடியுமோ அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரமாக நடத்துவதற்குள் முயற்சியை அரசாங்கம் எடுக்கிறது.

Pearl diving operation near Tuticorin

* 106 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of SRI A. A. RASHEED and SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the number of lives lost during the recent pearl diving operations near Tuticorin;

(b) the manner in which the divers lost their lives; and

(c) whether any compensation was paid to their families?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: (a) One.

(b) On 21st February 1959, the diver collapsed at his third dive and all the attempts to save his life proved futile.

(c) No compensation has been paid so far. The proposals from the Director of Fisheries for the grant of ex-gratia payment are awaited.

Veerankottai panchayat

* 113 Q.—SRI R. SRINIVASA IYER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from residents of Veerankottai in Pattukkottai taluk, Tanjore district, for bifurcating the panchayat of Veerankottai; and

(b) at what stage the above matter stands at present?